

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/484,344

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Applicant(s)

CHAUVIN, M. RENE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 3/24/04 and the tele. int. of May 14, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 42-45 and 48-51.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 8/13/01, 3/26/02 and 7/15/03
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 1/18/00
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5/14/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joshua Randall on May 14, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

changed the title to --TWO PART VEHICLE DOOR--

In the abstract:

line 3, changed "means" to --elements--

In the claims:

changed claim 42 to

--42. A door for an automobile vehicle, comprising:

a lower door part having an outer bodywork panel and an inner trim panel; and
a separate upper door part that comprises:

- a) a window assembly including a fixed window panel having an inner surface that is adapted to face an interior of the vehicle upon which the

door is to be mounted, and at least one movable window panel adjacent said fixed window panel and adapted to open and close an opening in the upper door part;

b) a frame connected to and supporting said window assembly, said frame is connected to said fixed window panel at only the inner surface of said fixed window panel; and

c) support elements connected to said frame, said support elements movably supporting said movable window panel such that said movable window panel is movable so as to open and close said opening;

wherein said lower and upper door parts are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of said door by a connection selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting, wherein said assembly area extends approximately horizontally and corresponds to a top of said lower door part and a bottom of said upper door part, wherein said assembly area extends substantially an entire length of said upper door part, and wherein the lower door part does not include guide means for a moving window disposed below the assembly area between said outer bodywork panel and said inner trim panel.--

changed claim 45 to

--45. A door according to claim 42, wherein said lower door part comprises a structural element, said outer bodywork panel and inner trim panel being connected to said structural element.--

changed claim 48 to

--48. A door for an automobile vehicle, comprising:

a lower door part having an outer bodywork panel and an inner trim panel; and

a separate upper door part that comprises:

a) a window assembly including a fixed window panel having an inner surface that is adapted to face an interior of the vehicle upon which the door is to be mounted, and at least one movable window panel adjacent said fixed window panel and adapted to open and close an opening in the upper door part;

b) support elements connected to said fixed window panel at only the inner surface thereof, said support elements movably supporting said movable window panel such that said movable window panel is movable so as to open and close said opening;

wherein said lower and upper door parts are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of said door by a connection selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding, brazing and riveting, wherein said assembly area extends approximately horizontally and corresponds to a top of said lower door part and a bottom of said upper door part, wherein said assembly area extends substantially an entire length of said upper door part, and wherein the lower door part does not include guide means for a moving window disposed below the assembly area between said outer bodywork panel and said inner trim panel.--

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changed claim 51 to

--51. A door according to claim 48, wherein said lower door part comprises a structural element, said outer bodywork panel and inner trim panel being connected to said structural element.--

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, absent applicant's own disclosure, fails to teach the entire combination of elements set forth in the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to teach a door for an automobile vehicle comprising a lower door part having an outer bodywork panel and an inner trim panel and a separate upper door part, wherein the lower and upper door parts are fixed to each other along an entire length of an assembly area of the door by a connection selected from the group consisting of gluing welding, brazing and riveting, wherein the assembly area extends approximately horizontally and corresponds to a top of the lower door part and a bottom of the upper door part, wherein the assembly area extends substantially an entire length of the upper door part, and wherein the lower door part does not include guide means for a moving window disposed below the assembly area between said outer bodywork panel and said inner trim panel. See lines 1-3 and 15-22 of claim 42 and lines 1-3 and 13-20 of claim 48.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 703-305-3979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Strimbu", is written over the printed name and title.

Gregory J. Strimbu
Primary Examiner
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May 14, 2004